

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1887

**Introduced by Assembly Member Low
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Ting)**

February 11, 2016

An act to add Section 11139.8 to the Government Code, relating to discrimination.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1887, as introduced, Low. State Government: discrimination: travel.

Existing law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, ethnic group identification, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, color, genetic information, or disability under any state program or activity. Existing law provides for officers and employees of the state, when away from their headquarters for state business, to receive travel expenses.

This bill would prohibit state-funded or state-sponsored travel to any state with a law in effect that sanctions or requires discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, subject to specified exceptions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11139.8 is added to the Government
2 Code, to read:

1 11139.8. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) California is a leader in protecting civil rights and preventing
4 discrimination.

5 (2) California's robust nondiscrimination laws include
6 protections on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and
7 gender expression, among other characteristics.

8 (3) Religious freedom is a cornerstone of law and public policy
9 in the United States, and the Legislature strongly supports and
10 affirms this important freedom.

11 (4) The exercise of religious freedom should not be a
12 justification for discrimination.

13 (5) California must take action to avoid supporting or financing
14 discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
15 people.

16 (6) It is the policy of the State of California to promote fairness
17 and equality and to combat discrimination.

18 (b) All agencies, departments, boards, authorities, commissions,
19 the University of California, the Board of Regents, of the
20 University of California and the California State University shall
21 review all requests for state-funded or state-sponsored travel to
22 any state with a law in effect that sanctions or requires
23 discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity,
24 or gender expression.

25 (c) Any state-funded or state-sponsored travel to locations
26 described in subdivision (b) is prohibited, unless that travel is
27 necessary for the enforcement of California law, to meet prior
28 contractual obligations, or for the protection of public health,
29 welfare, or safety.

30 (d) The prohibition on state-funded travel described in this
31 section shall continue while any law specified in subdivision (b)
32 remains in effect.